

The mission of FISH Hospitality Program is to serve homeless women and families by providing shelter and meals, and such other assistance as we are able, in order to give them a new opportunity to live independently in their communities as respected families and individuals. FHP does assist and enable our guests to obtain housing, jobs, medical services and other assistance to which they are entitled, as far as resources allow. FHP serves people in need without regard to race, religion, national origin or disability.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 17 **Board of Directors Meeting**
Wesley United Methodist, So Plainfield
- Nov 19 **Board of Directors Meeting**
Wesley United Methodist, So Plainfield
- Sept 26 **FHP's First Annual FISH Fry Dinner**
St John the Evangelist RC Church, Dunellen
- Oct 7 OR 28 **Coordinators' Meeting**
Date & Location TBA
- Dec 13 **Children's Christmas Party**
St John the Evangelist RC Church, Dunellen
- Dec 14 **Annual Carol Festival at 2:00 pm**
Trinity Reformed Church, No Plainfield

SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 – July 31, 2014)

Persons sheltered – 41 Family units – 16
Sheltered Adults – 17 Children - 24
Bed nights provided – 2,446

Who's in the program now?

(Kid's age in parenthesis – County)

Mom and one child (4) - MC
Mom and one child (12) - UC
Dad and three children (7, 10 & 13) – SC
Mom and three children (1, 8 & 9) – MC

DO YOU KNOW OF A CHURCH THAT MAY BE INTERESTED IN JOINING FHP?

We are always looking to add Night Hosting or Support Churches - PLEA
SE call Theresa

FISH Fry (Take-Out ONLY) Friday, Sept 26th

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church
317 First Street, Dunellen

Adult and kid size dinners
Drinks & Desserts available for purchase

See page three - order form
OR visit our website www.fishhospitality.org

MEET THE NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

After serving as President of the Board for over a decade, Bob Spencer retired in May. Bob continues to serve as a Board Member and is an invaluable resource. On May 20th Carole Cook was elected to serve as Board President of FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

Carole is co-coordinator at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield along with Margo Seaman. Here's a look at how she got here...

Carole retired in December, 1999 as vice president from the fast paced world of a daily newspaper to spend more time with her children. She also devoted a majority of her time to volunteer pursuits. At the Presbyterian Church in Westfield she served as a deacon, elder, president of the Nursery School Board, Youth Commission member, and Stephen Minister.

For about 20 years, Carole volunteered with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, now known as *HomeFirst*. Several years ago, she became a co-coordinator of a program that has now become part of FHP. "Serving as a volunteer, coordinator, occasional office helper and Board member has given me an opportunity to learn and understand the FHP organization."

Last year Carole attended the Family Promise National Conference in Atlanta. She felt energized and optimistic about the future of FISH Hospitality. "Meeting with directors, board members and coordinators from organizations across the country all working toward the same goal ... not only sheltering families in need but transforming lives ... was exhilarating. I want to bring some of that energy to our Board and the organization as a whole."

GUEST'S CORNER

"Appreciation Letter"

First I'd like to give my greatest appreciation and gratitude to the FISH Hospitality Program, those behind the phones, volunteers, and everyone else associated with this program. FHP liberated me from sleeping in my car and on the street, and I will forever pay much respect and indebtedness with my well-being. They have been nothing but caring, helpful, supportive, beneficial, and a tremendous guidance. I don't know where I would be right now if it wasn't for them opening their doors to me.

I found myself living in my car, then motels after losing more than half my hours at work. I called so many resources and was getting nowhere; mainly because most services are for either mother with children, or for woman in domestic violence, and I had neither. I am a female that took care of my family and supported them until losing them. Many years back I was in a domestic violence relationship but as of that moment I wasn't; which didn't qualify me for any help. Also I was working part-time hours so the Board of Social Services did not want to help me because they expect you NOT to work. The criteria is for women with children, or you must not be working at all. With all the searching I did I was getting nowhere -- leaving me in my car, or from motel to motel. I was slowly losing it all. A friend of mine ended up calling FHP. They called me back and I was accepted into their Program. It was very scary for me knowing I was going into a shelter. I was furious, nervous, anxious, and so afraid. I mean when you hear you're going into a shelter after having it all; it's such a long way down, I felt helpless.

Little did I know it was a lot better than I expected. I expected to walk into a room with dirty bunk beds and all these homeless poor folks everywhere; and it was nothing like that. I mean I was still a little upset at how bad my situation got, and I was still a little uncomfortable; but it was so much more decent and safe than anyone can imagine. I was welcomed with encouraging and upbeat individuals. It was a relief.

The volunteers communicated with me and told me all about the program from their end. Most of the other Guests were there for few weeks so they were familiar with the program, which also helped me to know what to expect. The volunteers and staff also did the same telling me all that's involved. FHP gave us toiletries as well as anything I needed for work or school. This helped me so much because I didn't have to spend a dime that was required by work or school. This helped me save my money, and spend it on the bills I had to pay. They provided us with a bed every night at a different church every week. They prepared meals for us for dinner and

had grub for us to make for breakfast as well as lunch. This program has basically helped us with our more meaningful necessities and essentials of life. They helped with all that's needed for life: food, drink, shelter, love, support, guidance, moment-to-moment essentials.

Theresa was the main person we all dealt with. She would have meetings with us every week and guide us in the right direction. She made sure we were on the right track and strived to make a better tomorrow for us all. She was vital to us every day. Theresa was there even when it was off hours. She would sit down and always be upfront with what is to be done and she has the biggest heart anyone can imagine. She is a very busy woman and at times some volunteers would say she's strict and expected so much; but I saw it as being passionate, controlled, harmless, logical, and making sure we got things done. I will forever value her for as long as I live. Theresa was there to hold me when I cried and hear me out when I had stuff to let out. She made sure things were done and were done right away. Thank you Theresa.

There was also Frank. This program even had a van which drove you to any facilities you had to go that pertained to social services, work, school, etc. They also drove you every week to the laundry mat to make sure laundry was done with donations that were provided to compensate you for your laundry. Frank was a character. He was always so positive and brightened up the day from even early in the morning to late evening. I will always be appreciative to him also -- especially because I needed a few more quarters to finish my laundry. He did not hesitate to help me out. All the women that work in the office were so beneficial and important. Whenever something needed to be done or were called upon, they were on it. I'm going to miss those chocolate chip cookies! Thank you Kathy, Emily, Carole, and whoever else I'm missing. I want to thank all the volunteers. They were always there to hear me out, and help us out make sure our stay was great.

This has been a memorable experience that I will always be grateful for. I couldn't have asked for a better team. They all work side by side in making sure this program works in the best standards, and I will cherish it all. Everyone's charm has built great sympathy and appreciation to all. This is a program that I hope will last and grow for a lifetime. It has helped me in so many ways. If there was one thing I can change it will be to have more of these programs out there. We need it. I needed it and when I lost all hope, FHP helped me and gave me faith. It's hard being a working female with no children and having nowhere to go so I recommend this program to grow and become a great franchise. My experience with the FISH Hospitality Program has been awarded my heart and thanks.

Thank you for everything, former Guest M

SEPT 2014

FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

A program for homeless women and families serving Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties NJ

Mailing 1: PO Box 170, Dunellen, NJ 08812
Mailing 2: PO Box 5440, Plainfield, NJ 07061
Office: 456 New Market Road, Piscataway
Phone: 732-968-5957 Fax: 732-968-2870
Email: fishhosp@verizon.net
Website: www.fishhospitality.org

Affiliate of Family Promise
Affiliate of FISH, Inc. Dunellen, NJ
Member of New Jersey Alliance for the Homeless
A United Way Agency

Board of Directors

President	Carole Cook
Treasurer	Jeffrey Rummen
Vice President	David W. Casterline
Secretary	Patricia Klatt

Members

Katherine Borgen	Marjorie G. Hall
Brock Haussamen	Sharon J. Hunt
Emily Mlinarovich	Claudine Lewis, MSW/LSW
Kathryn J. Riss	Margo Seaman
Robert J. Spencer	David Walter

Director

Theresa Donatiello Neidich, MSW/LSW

WISH LIST

Laundry detergent TABS (no liquids please);
DEODORANT (Suave or Dove); mouthwash;
body wash & **BODY LOTION**; bar soap (Dove & Dial); bed pillows; feminine products; **BABY ITEMS**: lotion, shampoo, wash, unscented wipes and Purex baby detergent

GIFT CARDS: Target, Walmart, Kohls, CVS, Walgreens, Payless shoes & Famous Footwear; Shop Rite & Stop N Shop

Thank you to **VERSATILE Printing** of Bound Brook for their continued support of FHP by donating their services to print this newsletter.

PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS

Host Congregations:

Bound Brook Presbyterian Church
Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway
First Baptist, Sewaren
First Presbyterian, Avenel
First Presbyterian, Cranford
First Presbyterian, Dunellen
New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene, Edison
Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield
Second Reformed Church, New Brunswick
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen
St Paul's United Church of Christ, Milltown
The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
Trinity Episcopal, Woodbridge
Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick

Support Congregations:

Community Presbyterian Church, Edison
First Congregational Church of Westfield
Friends Quaker Meeting House, Plainfield
Grace Alliance, Piscataway
New Dover United Methodist Church
Our Lady of Fatima R.C. Church, Piscataway
Our Lady of Mount Virgin R.C. Church, Middlesex
Pilgrim Covenant, South Plainfield
St Cecelia's R.C. Church, Iselin
St Francis Cabrini R.C., Piscataway
St Luke's R.C. Church, North Plainfield
St James R.C. Church, Woodbridge
St John the Evangelist R. C. Church, Dunellen
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Bound Brook
The Rescue House of Prayer, S. Plainfield
Trinity Reformed Church, N. Plainfield
Wesley United Methodist , S. Plainfield

WE REALLY NEED YOU!!

Yes YOU! We need volunteers to help at our day center on Saturdays and Sundays. We often need help at our night hosting churches with meals and hosting. Please call the office to talk to Emily or Kathy at 732 968-5957.

HELP WANTED

Afternoon Office Volunteer

THURSDAYS ONLY: answer phones and light office work - PLEASE contact Theresa: 732-968-5957 or fishhospsw@verizon.net



**FISH Fry
Fish & Chips OR
Chicken Tenders & Chips
TAKE OUT ONLY**

Friday, Sept 26th

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church
317 First Street, Dunellen

New Email: fishhosp@verizon.net

Visit our website FISH Fry page: <http://fishhospitality.org/fishfry/>

Drinks & Desserts will be available for purchase when you pick up

We will take orders from through Wednesday, September 24

PLEASE PREORDER AND CIRCLE YOUR PICK UP TIME BELOW:

4:45-5:15 5:15-5:45 5:45-6:15 6:15-6:45 6:45-7:30

Payable by cash or check (made out to FISH Hospitality Program) – drop off your payment at the office no later than Wednesday, September 24, 2014

OR use PayPal: visit our website www.fishhospitality.org to make your payment AND send Kathy an email with the information below to fishhosp@verizon.net. If you prefer you may fax this form.

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Adult Dinner- \$15.00 _____ Fish orders _____ Chicken orders

Child Dinner- \$ 6.00 _____ Fish orders _____ Chicken orders

Total Enclosed- _____

Caution: Ingredients contain flour and other allergens. Nut ingredients may have an allergic reaction in some people. Plant where items are produced also process nut and gluten items.